

In the Specification:

I) Amend the second full paragraph at page 10 of the specification as follows.

If it is not possible to reliably prevent the processing liquid from getting into contact with the contacting electrodes, processing liquid that has exited the electrolysis region and reached the contacting electrodes may be removed by providing continuous or intermittent washing or spraying (R) using rinsing facilities (R). In order to efficiently rinse the processing liquid off the contacting electrodes, the work pieces may be transported in a plane that is for example inclined to the horizontal at an angle of at least 5.degree., of about 70.degree. at most and preferably at about 15.degree. Rinse liquid delivered to the contacting electrodes quickly drains off so that efficient removal of the processing liquid is made possible. Alternatively, processing liquid that has exited the electrolysis regions can also be removed by air jets, using air knives (A) for example.

No new matter has been added. "Rinsing facilities" is disclosed in original claim 16 which is part of the original disclosure. "The at least on contact electrode (6, 14) is continuously or intermittently rinsed" is disclosed in original claim 33, which is part of the original disclosure.

II) Amend the first full paragraph on page 21 of the specification as follows.

FIG. 1 illustrates a first embodiment of the device in accordance with the invention. The size of the device shown in the Fig. may more specifically approximately match the actual size of the device. This means that the discrete modules **M** in the device have, as viewed in the direction of transport, a length of a few centimeters if electrically isolating structures respectively having dimensions on the order of a few centimeters are to be treated. Viewed in the direction of transport, the length of a single module **M** may for example be 4.5 cm. The length of the various modules (in this context the reader is referred to size **L** in **FIG. 2**) depends on the size of the structures **S** on the foil strip **1**. The size of these structures **S** also affects the distance between successive contact electrodes which may be the contact brushes **14** or the contacting rollers **6**. As stated above, one of the leading and trailing contact electrodes 6, 14 must always be in contact with a structure **S** as it passes through a discrete modules **M**.

The width of the discrete modules **M** depends on the width of the foil **1** to be processed. If for example a foil strip **1** having a width of 60 cm is processed in the device, the discrete modules **M** must also have a width on this order. As a result, the modules **M** are preferably elongate processing devices that extend substantially normal to the direction of transport (direction of transport denoted by an arrow in **FIG. 1**) over the entire width of the foil **1**.

No new matter has been added. The presence of structure (S) to be electrically treated is explicitly and implicitly disclosed in the original specification in numerous areas thereof, some of which are identified above with respect to the amendment to Fig. 2. The length (L), of a Module (M), shows this distance as between the contact brushes (14) and the contacting rollers (6), which form the electrode member of the electrolysis region (M), wherein the counter electrode (4) is the anode for the electrolysis region M. The length (L), Module (M), the contact brushes (14) and the contacting rollers (6) are all original to originally filed Fig. 2. As it is explicitly clear from the specification that one of the contacting electrodes (6, 14) must be in contact with the structure (S) as it passes through the Module (M), it is implicitly disclosed that the separation distance between the contacting electrodes (6, 14) cannot be greater than the length of the structure (S).

III) Amend the specification, page 35, the section titled "Reference numerals" as follows.

Reference numerals:

- 1** work piece (foil strip)
- 2** electrolytic cell top
- 3** electrolytic cell bottom
- 4** counter electrodes, anodes
- 5** counter electrode holders, anode holders
- 6** contacting electrodes, contacting rollers
- 7** sealing rollers
- 8** auxiliary sealing rollers
- 9** sealing wall
- 10** module wall, cell wall
- 11** electrolyte feed line

- 12** collecting tank
- 13** ion-permeable isolation
- 14** contact brushes
- 15** bath surface level
- 16** sealing roller bearing
- 17** electrolyte discharge line
- 18** deviating roller
- 19** bearing surface for the upper anode holder cover cap
- 21** partition member
- 22** pinch roller
- 23** sealing lip
- 24** inner partition wall
- 25** drive rollers
- A** air knives, air jets
- M, M1-M5** processing modules
- R** rinsing facilities, washing or rinsing
- S** structures, conductive structures, electrically conductive structures

Pursuant to the above-recited discussion, no new matter has been added.

IV) Amend the "Abstract" as follows.

Abstract

In order to permit continuous electrolytic treatment of small electrically conductive structures **(S)** that are electrically insulated against each other on electrically insulating foil material, a device for electrolytically treating electrically conductive structures **(S)** on surfaces of workpiece **(1)** that are electrically insulated against each other is provided, said device comprising: a) at least one arrangement, comprising at least one electrode **(6)** for contacting the work pieces **(1)** and at least one electrolysis region in a respective one of which at least one counter electrode **(4)** and the work pieces **(1)** are in contact with the processing liquid, b) the at least one contacting electrode **(4)** being disposed outside of the at least on electrolysis region and not being in contact with the processing liquid and c) the at least one contacting electrode **(6)** and that at least one electrolysis region being spaced so close together that small electrically conductive structures **(S)** can electrolytically be treated.

No new matter has been added. In addition to the various portions of the original specification referenced above, the electrically conductive structures on the surfaces of the work pieces were also recited in the original claims which are also a part of the original specification.